

## *leptophylla*

(Gold Medallion Tree)  
*Fabaceae* (Leguminosae) (Legume family)  
Origin: Brazil

KASS-ee-uh  
lep-toe-FILL-uh

### Species characteristics:

**Form** - Nearly evergreen. Fast growing to 20 - 25'. A shapely, graceful, open-headed, low-spreading tree with a bushy spreading crown and slightly pendent branch tips.

**Trunk** - Slightly furrowed reddish brown bark occasionally marked with vertical streaks.

**Foliage** - Pinnately compound, green leaves 12-18" long with up to 12 pairs of narrow leaflets  $1\frac{1}{2}$  -  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " long and  $\frac{1}{8}$  -  $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide.

**Flowers/fruit** - Deep yellow flowers 2 - 3" wide in 6 - 8" rounded terminal clusters through July and August, with occasional blooms later. Straight green woody pods turn dark brown and twisting with maturity, reaching 16" long and 1" thick. The pods are 4-sided and almost square in cross section and very hard.

No significant pest problems are known at this time.

### Site suitability:

Sunset zones - 21 - 24.

**Clearances** - Suitable for 4' minimum parkways, medians or cutouts. Suitable under utility lines.

Good for street sides, medians, parks and lawns.

### Culture considerations:

Prune after flowering to minimize pod development. Full sun. Large pods present a litter problem.

### Comments, notes:

Low branching, spreading habits require careful training to obtain clearances.

